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REMARKS

In the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences mailed September 30, 2005, Appeal No. 2005-1911, the Examiner's rejection of Group II (claims 2, 8, 13, and 17) was REVERSED. The Applicants note that the Board stated in the conclusion that the Examiner was reversed as to claims 8-14 and 17, but further note that the Board held on page 8 of the decision that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) was not sustained, and imposed no new grounds of rejection, such that the statement in the conclusion of the decision is in error as to claim 2.

Furthermore, since the Board has explicitly indicated that dependent claims 2 and 17 are allowable, Applicants submit amendments as of right under 37 C.F.R. 1.196(c) to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 and 17 and any intervening claims into their underlying base claims. All pending claims are therefore allowable as either having been explicitly allowed by the Board or as depending from an allowable independent claim, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Several minor amendments have also been made to correct antecedent basis and other formal matters.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, a telephone interview with the Examiner is hereby requested by the undersigned at (214) 939-8657 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

No additional fee is believed to be due with this preliminary amendment. If any applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Godwin Gruber, LLP, No. 50-0530.

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Respectfully submitted,

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